

Are We Losing Latins to Reds?

Reviewed by Willard F. Barber

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RED MACHETE: Communist Infiltration in the Americas. By John Donovan. Bobbs-Merrill. 288 pp. \$3.95.

THE UNITED STATES, CUBA, AND CASTRO. By W. A. Williams. Monthly Review Press. 179 pp. \$3.25.

A JOURNALIST'S country-by-country survey of Latin America by John Donovan quotes all manner of people in their sometimes vulgar vernacular. Some of his impressions were obtained at bar-side interviews. In some cases he relies heavily on the views and facts already presented in earlier publications, some of which he cites at great length. The net is loosely organized material, as neither a topical nor a chronological order is maintained, despite the ostensible allocation of most of the 17 chapters to individual countries.

In Argentina, Brazil and Chile the author reports both Russian and Chinese Communist efforts ranging from subsidized paperbacks to cultural and trade missions. In Peru there was documented proof of the Cuban Embassy's cash payments to journalists, trade unionists, students, lawyers, teachers and political figures of all parties. Clearly Communism is the Viota community in Colombia, a country where "numerous families have from 12 to 15

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Szulc. He disparages Draper, his chief target, no less than 30 times in a single chapter.

To the extent that this slim volume is not merely an attack upon other writers but a serious historian's essay, there are lacking many of the watermarks of scholarship. Quotations are related to names but with no indication of date, circumstances, or written source. Nearly all of the books cited were published within the past two years. Research into earlier background seems largely limited to news files. There is no bibliography or index.

The author insists that the United States is responsible for the conditions that gave rise to Castro and his revolution which was not a betrayal but a dynamic fulfillment of the earlier constitution of 1940. He recommends recognition, agreements on sugar and compensation for American property owners, parallel phase-outs of Russians in Cuba and Americans in Turkey, and that Cuba should become the "showplace of co-existence" with economic aid from both Russian and United States sources.

DONOVAN covers the entire hemisphere; Williams limits himself to Cuba and the United States. Donovan views the future with controlled alarm; Williams describes the past with uncontrolled bitterness. Both authors intended to finish their books before the November missile crisis: one in a foreword, the other in a postscript, evaluated that event. Williams proclaimed that it served only to emphasize and dramatize (his) central life of argument. Donovan felt that the United States had reason to be pleased with the support of both NATO and Latin allies.

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